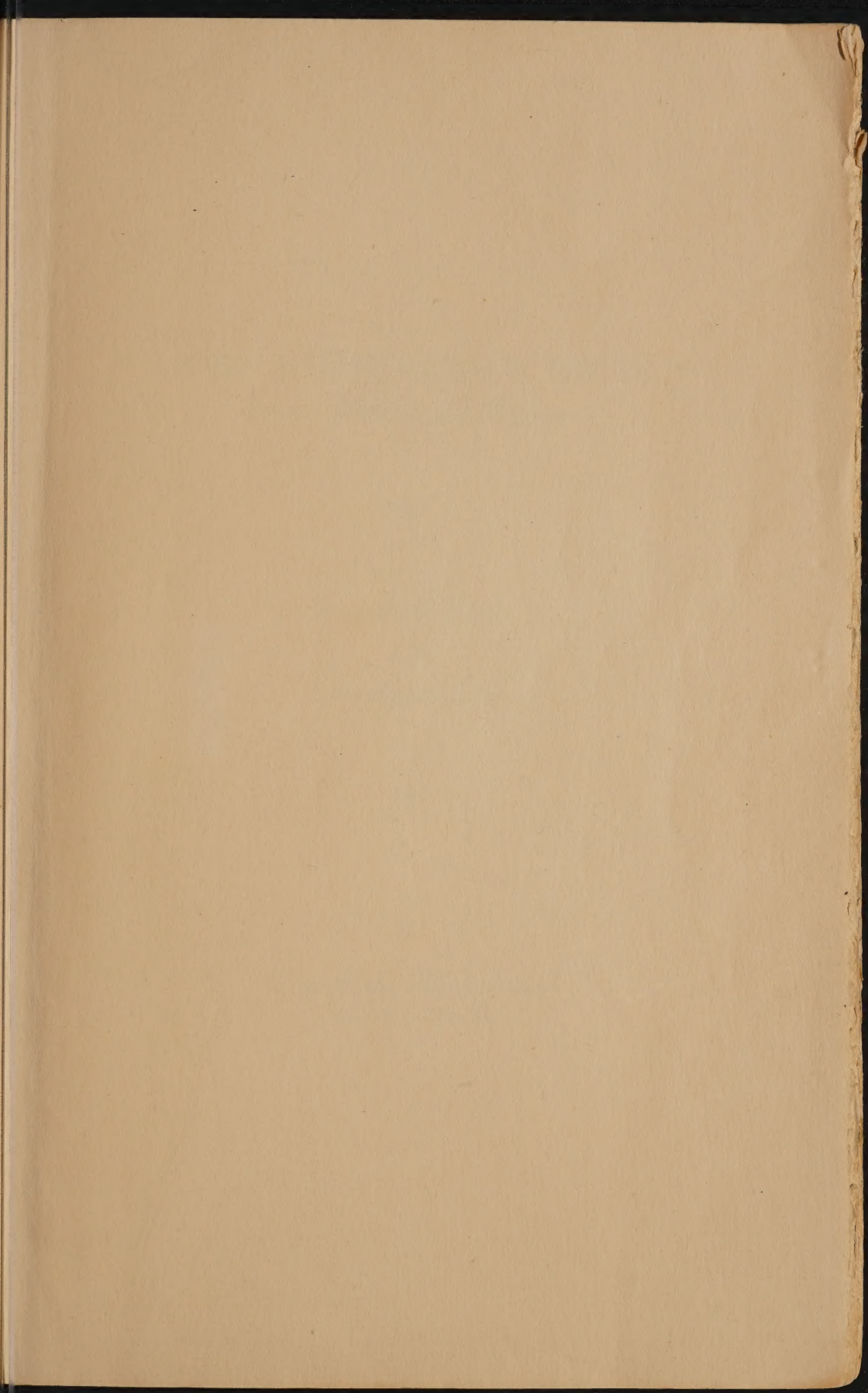


John Bartholomew Rieger

By
ORA MERLE HAWK PEASE





JOHN BARTHOLOMEW RIEGER

Pioneer Minister and Physician



Biographical Sketch

with

Genealogical Data



by

Ora Merle Hawk Pease

Genealogist - Historian

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DEDICATED

to

My Mother

MARGARET ANN (W_{right}s_{el}=Haw_k) TILLEY

a descendant of

JOHN BARTHOLOMEW RIEGER

PREFACE

In the words accredited to Daniel Webster—"By ascending to an association with our ancestors; by contemplating their example and studying their characters; by partaking their sentiments and imbibing their spirit; by accompanying them in their toils, by sympathizing in their sufferings, and rejoicing in their success and their triumphs; we seem to belong to their age and to mingle our own existence with theirs."

It is the hope of the author that this small volume of family history may serve a two-fold purpose to the present descendants of this noted and illustrious forebear. First,—to inspire them to greater achievements; second,—that it may encourage and cause them to bring their family records to date, thereby establishing a precedent for future generations of keeping accurate family records. Blank record sheets have been provided in the back of the book for immediate family data, charts, etc.

The writer has spent much time and effort in research, and made many contacts through correspondence in collecting the material—historical notes, court documents, and family records—for this work; and for the splendid cooperation and help received, which made this booklet possible, is especially indebted and most grateful to the following named persons:

C. Nevin Heller—for his booklet and other historical notes. Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Penn.

Miss Elizabeth Keiffer, librarian (custodian of church archives), Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Penn.

Miss Jessica C. Ferguson, Genealogical Librarian, State Library and Museum, Harrisburg, Penn.

October 20, 1946.

THE AUTHOR.

INTRODUCTION

The Rieger (Reger) family is an ancient one, and, as far as known, originated in what is now Silesia, Germany. A town bearing the name of "REGER" (found on an old map)—was in existence before the 15th century. The landed aristocracy and governing classes of that and adjacent regions belonged to the nobility, for the most part, and had come up or were sent from the Roman Empire, and were charged with the defence of the imperial provinces.

Several members of the early Rieger families were prominent—some held high offices of trust; one was Ambassador to Bohemia—others won fame, honors and high awards for military achievements.

On 14, January, 1571—A Coat-of-Arms was granted to five Reger brothers, namely: Caspar, Othmar, Sebastian, George, and John,—(the last two names appear frequently in later generations).

Description of the Arms: in German—(Wappen a) 1571. In Blau ein rother Schraglinkbalken, unter welchem im Schilde fusse auf silbernem Dreiberge ein rechtsgekehrter natürlicher Reiher-Kleinod: auf blau roth-silbernem Wulste ein geschlossener Flug; vorn blau and mit dem Reiher bezeichnet; hinten silbern mit rothem Schraglinksbalken. Decken: blau-roth-silbern.

English translation: A plain blue shield with a red bevelled bar to the left, and beneath which, three mountain peaks of silver, at the base of the shield, and a natural heron or egret—the insignia of royalty—perched thereon.

Crest: On the blue, red, and silver wreath or roll, stands a heron, facing the left, with clusters of feathers—in front, blue in the back, of silver, with a red bevelled bar to the left.

Mantle: Blue, red, and silver.

JOHN BARTHOLOMEW RIEGER

(1707-1769)

PART I

John Bartholomew Rieger, a physician, and also an ordained minister of the First Reformed Church, who resided in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was the progenitor of our RIEGER (REGER, RAGER, REAGER) line in America. He was the son of John Adam Rieger, a "Tax gatherer," and his wife, Anna Magdalena, of Oberengelheim, in the Palatinate, on the Rhine, Germany. He was born in Oberengelheim, January 10, 1707, and he was given the name of JOHN BARTHOLOMEW for his sponsor, John Bartholomew Eberth.

Great (4)-grandfather Rieger was, no doubt, of a very studious and religious nature for early in 1724 we find him a student of philosophy at Heidelberg University*, where he matriculated February 14, 1724, but soon transferred to the University of Basel*, in Basel, Switzerland, matriculating April 20, 1724. In connection with the university was a noted Bible Institute. Here, he continued his studies for a time, and later returned to the University of Heidelberg, completed the course, and was graduated from that institution. He was a learned Greek and Latin scholar, and was ordained a minister before he left Europe.

The course he pursued after leaving the university until 1731, is not clear, but in that year he brought a colony of 269 persons—including children—to America.

"As this company passed through Dort on the way to Rotterdam to board the ship, the Synod of South Holland was in session. The group was visited by the entire synod in a body, and was furnished by them with provisions and medicines. After christian exhortations, prayers and singing, they were dismissed with the assurance that they might rely upon the church of Holland for support in their new abode." (German Ref. Almanac, p. 22, Pub., 1865.)

*Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany—founded in 1386, is the oldest in Germany.

*Basel University, in Basel, Canton of Basel, Switzerland,—is renowned; founded in 1459 by Pope Pius II. There is also a famous Bible Institute and Mission House.

The ship in which they sailed was the *Britannica*, and it arrived at the port of Philadelphia on September 21, 1731. The members of the party were required to sign the oath of allegiance to the English King and also a pledge of loyalty to the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania and abjuration of Roman Catholicism. In both these documents the name of John Bartholomew Rieger—"JOHANNES BARTHOLOMAY RIEGER—Hoch-teutscher Prediger"—appeared as the first signer, indicating his leadership, and that he was an ordained minister.

Johannes Bartholomay Rieger.

Facsimile of His Signature

The document which all male persons above the age of sixteen did repeat and subscribe their names, or make their mark, is the following DECLARATION:

"We subscribers, natives and late inhabitants of the Palatinate upon the Rhine and places adjacent, having transported ourselves and families into this Province of Pennsylvania, a colony subject to the crown of Great Britain, in hopes and expectation of finding a retreat and peaceable settlement therein, Do solemnly promise and engage, that we will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His present Majesty, KING GEORGE THE SECOND, and His successors, kings of Great Britain, and will be faithful to the proprietor of this Province; and that we will demean ourselves peaceably to all His said Majesty's subjects, and strictly observe and conform to the Laws of England and of this Province, to the utmost of our power and the best of our understanding."

The Reverend Mr. Rieger was naturalized by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on September 19, 1740.

Shortly after his arrival, being a man of unusual intelligence and training, he was readily pressed into service and soon became minister of the congregations at Philadelphia, Germantown, and Skippack,—preaching at these places on successive Sundays until about 1734.

At the age of 27, John Bartholomew Rieger was united in marriage on June 6, 1734, in the First Presbyterian church

of Philadelphia, to Miss Eva Catherine Vogelin, said to be the daughter of John Vogelin who brought his family to America, arriving August 27, 1735, in the ship, *Eliza*. The officiating clergyman, no doubt, was the Reverend Jedediah Andrews, as he was the minister of that church from 1701 to 1747.

Rev. Rieger was pastor of the church in Amwell, New Jersey, at the time of his marriage. He was the first minister of the Reformed Church to preach in that state. This church later became the Presbyterian church of Ringoes, New Jersey.

It is interesting to note here that Conrad Beissel, called "Friedsam," born at Eberbach in the Palatinate in 1690 and died at Ephrata, Penn., July 6, 1768, was the founder and leader of the "Order of the Solitary," and he was very hopeful of winning Rev. Rieger for his sect; and that when he heard of his marriage he exclaimed, "Oh, Lord, Thou sufferest them to spoil in one's very hands!" It is said, however, that it was "... Most doubtful whether, under the most favorable circumstances, Rieger could have been transformed into a monk."

While he was serving the Philadelphia church, Mr. Rieger was charged with trespassing against John Philip Boehm by intruding in one of Boehm's congregations, and an insight into his true character is evinced by his forthright confession and atonement, which was written and signed by himself 27 of February, 1735, in New York, when minister at Amwell,—a copy of which follows:

"I sincerely regret that unlawfully and without the consent of Domine Boehm, lawful pastor of Weitmarge, Schippack and Falckner Schwam, I conducted services in his congregation at Schippack, which is diametrically opposed to the Church Order of the Dutch Reformed Church (which order I confess agrees more than any other with the teachings of Christ, the practice of the apostles and the ancient customs of the Church) and which I promised the Rev. Mr. Boel, minister in New York and the Rev. Mr. Antonides, minister on Long Island, last year not to do again. I ask Do. Boehm and his consistory for their brotherly forgiveness and to bury under a Christian amnesty all that may ever have passed between him and me, and to give me thereon the hand of brotherly fellowship, of reconciliation and love. What has happened shall not happen again. The fire of youth, passion and so forth can do much. I further promise to do in the future everything

in my power in the interest of Do. Boehm and his congregation, and when there is an opportunity to speak well of him to his opponents. Nor shall I fail to do and to say what shall recommend and reconcile him to them.

"Do. Boehm need the less doubt my word, because, in the presence of their Reverences, Messrs. Du Bois and Boel, ministers at New York, I promised to subordinate myself and my congregations to the Classis of Amsterdam, to be willingly and entirely subject to its discipline and, should I, in one thing or another give offence, also to its censure; pledging myself, as proof of my subordination to the Reverend Classis of Amsterdam, to send a written agreement, before the 14th of April next, if I am living and enjoy health, to the correspondents, Messrs. Du Bois, Antonides and Boel, and if I neglect the same, or have not then furnished it, without giving sufficient reasons to the satisfaction of Messrs. Du Bois, Antonides and Boel, that in that case Do. Boehm and his consistory may continue their action against me and may prosecute me by correspondence and by every other ecclesiastical and lawful manner customary in such cases. All this was sacredly promised without cunning and guile and signed for its proper observance, in New York, on 27 February, 1735."

Rev. Boehm was more advanced in years, and was not an ordained minister when he assumed the church leadership. He was very conscientious, but very strict in his beliefs and attached to forms and precedents, while Rieger was decidedly the progressive type,—holding more liberal views and was more tolerant. Boehm's death occurred April 29, 1749.

PART II

In April of the year 1739, Rev. Rieger removed his family to Lancaster city, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. It was here that the following children were born—named in order of their births: 1). *JOHN B., Jr., born January 25, 1742 (of whom presently); 2). Peter; 3). Abraham; 4). Maria Catharina, married Christian Isch, a Revolutionary War soldier who died before 1790; 5). Benjamin, who became a noted physician. His daughter, Catherine, married Jacob Miller, a leading merchant of Lancaster.

*JOHN B., Jr., (above—the writer's branch of the family), was a colorful and influential figure in the early history of southern Ohio—having gone into Pickaway county as early as 1799. Among others who migrated about the same time were Jacob Greenough, Samuel and David Denny, Nicholas Miller, his son-in-law, and a Mr. Valentine.

It seems he and his father did not see eye to eye in a good many things and, no doubt, it was due to temperamental differences, and perhaps the father was also disturbed because his son would not take advantage of his educational opportunities. He practically disinherited him in his will, and this may easily have influenced the son to change the spelling of his name—R-I-E-G-E-R to R-A-G-E-R, which was most unfortunate, indeed, as it became a barrier later to those tracing their family connections.

John, Jr. was a great lover of the outdoors life, and became a ranger on the frontiers of Pennsylvania. After the death of his father, he purchased land in Northumberland county, Penn., where the Indians were still quite a menace. During the Revolutionary War he served as a ranger and a private in the militia.

Some time before 1790, he removed his family to Virginia and remained there till his venturesome spirit led him into Ohio, as previously mentioned. Here, he found delight and

happiness in the virgin forests and history states that he was one of the greatest hunters of his time,—often bagging as many as five or six deer in a single day. His son, John, usually followed him with a sled and carried home the deer as they were slain. Other game was bear and wild turkeys. To the early settlers, the spoils of the chase provided as much of their subsistence as did the products of the soil, and thus deer thickets and turkey roosts were almost indispensable.

*He became an extensive landholder—owning hundreds of acres—family tradition states that he owned literally mile after mile of land bordering on the highways in Pickaway and Vinton counties, Ohio. The Court records exhibit a number of deeds and other interesting court cases of John Rager. Among the witnesses of some of these documents appears the name of his young friend, Cornelius Karnes, whose wife was Christine Switzer, the author's paternal great-great-aunt.

John, Jr.'s family consisted of his wife, Catherine, and the following children: 1). John (III); 2). *GEORGE (the writer's line—see below); 3). Elizabeth, m. Nicholas Miller; 4). Catherine, m. John Goings; 5). Polly, m. John Wright; 6). Eva, m. 9-13-1812, Joseph Glass.

*George Rager (above), married in 1813, Margaret La Count (Le Conte), born in Maryland, and was descended from the very early Le Conte families who came from France—the first families being original settlers in New Rochelle, New York. They had twin daughters, Mary (Polly), and Elizabeth (Bettsy), born 8-3-1814, and who later grew up in their grandparents' (Rager) home, as the father died when they were young. Polly (Mary) Rager married, 5-17-1832, Henry Ritesel, born in 1814, and was the son of John Henry Ritesel, a shoemaker by trade. They were the parents of eight children: 1) Hannah, d. in her teens; 2) Margaret b. 1835, d. 1919, m. William Crites; 3) Jacob, b. 1-26-1936, d. 8-30-1909, m. 9-15-1861, to Margaret Curts; 4) John, d. at the age of 18; 5) Mary,

b. 1842, d. 2-11-1876, m. 2-28-1871, William Taylor; 6) Jane d. young; 7) George Riley*, b. 6-24-1846, d. 1-21-1927, m. 2-21-1868, Mary Elizabeth Magee (the writer's grandparents); 8) Henry, b. 9-21-1848, d. 6-14-1938, m. (1st) Elizabeth (Lizzie) Ann Tremaine in 1869, m. (2nd), Sarah Lou Ansell, 4-10-1881.

Henry Ritesel died on Feb. 10, 1849. Polly Ritesel remarried, 3-10-1852, to Christopher Ellis, and had three daughters and one son by this marriage. She died 8-8-1882.

Polly's twin sister, Bettsy (Elizabeth) Rager, married, August 20, 1829, Allan Mills, who died in 1872. She died January 3, 1880. They had at least five children.

There is a tradition that John Henry Ritesel went back to Virginia to buy leather to make shoes. He and the man who accompanied him went on horse-back, and the search was made for them, and the horses found, the men were never seen or heard of again—it is assumed that the Indians murdered them and took their horses.

George Rager was a soldier in the war of 1812.

JOHN B. RAGER (RIEGER), JR. lived to be over 102 years of age. He died November 1, 1844, and lies buried on his estate in Ohio.

*George Riley Ritesel, being influenced by the family with whom he lived after the death of his father, changed the spelling of his name to WRIGHTSEL; subsequently his brother and sisters adopted the same spelling.

PART III

The Rev. Rieger had probably gone to Lancaster to be near his uncle, Dr. Jacob Frederick Rieger, who had settled there soon after coming to this country in the ship, *St. Andrew*, which arrived September 12, 1734. The History of Lancaster County has this to say of Dr. J. F. Rieger—" . . . He was an eminent surgeon, and, no doubt, Dr. Jacob Frederick Rieger was also a university man and this, united with his profession, gave him prominence in the community. . . ."—Rev. John B. and his uncle were both definitely connected with Christopher Saur, the noted scholar and printer, who, in 1743, or 1746, printed a "magnificent quarto edition of the Bible in the German language—the first American made copies,"—and Dr. Jacob F. was appointed his agent in the sale of these Bibles. Rev. John B. contributed articles for the press, in which, it has been said, ". . . he was fond of using Greek and Latin phrases—and that he sought to impress the laity by assuming all the dignity and state of the traditional 'HERR PFARRER!'"

There was conjecture as to the true relationship of Dr. Jacob Frederick Rieger and Dr. John B.,—sources searched state that they were brothers, but the writer, by diligent research, has concluded, beyond a doubt, that Jacob F. was John B.'s uncle. He was thirty-two years older than the latter. He died on 1-2-1762, aged 87 years, and was survived by his wife, Barbara Jane (or Jean), and one son, Jacob, born in 1755. The only other known child was a son, John, who died at the age of six. His wife died 1-25-1773, at the age of sixty-two. The son, Jacob, became a physician and surgeon. He served in the Revolutionary War, and John L. Ruth in his book states that, "Dr. Jacob Rieger was commissioned a surgeon on March 22, 1776, and attached to Col. Samuel Miles' Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment. He undoubtedly served at Long Island."

A most unfortunate and regrettable happening occurred

Monday evening, in the Barrack yard, on the 12th of May, 1789, which involved Dr. Jacob Rieger. It was the duel in which he engaged Captain Stephen Chambers for an affront offered him by Chambers in Stokes' tavern, the "Swan," located in Penn Square, and, in the heat of the encounter, challenged him to fight the duel. It brought distressing grief to both families and their many friends. Captain Chambers was shot in both legs, and though the wounds were not considered serious, gangrene developed, spreading rapidly, and he died four days later, leaving a wife and several children. In civil life he was an attorney-at-law, standing high in his profession. Chambers' arrogant remarks had cost him his life, and Dr. Rieger never fully recovered from the shock,—he died the 20th of October, 1793, being only 38 years of age. He was survived by his wife and four children.

It was said to have been the first duel ever fought in the state of Pennsylvania; later, the practice was outlawed.

The History of Lancaster County lists Dr. Jacob Rieger as ". . . a highly respectable physician and surgeon. . . ."

". . . Socially, the Rieger families were prominent in the early history of Lancaster, and their names frequently appear in contemporary records."

Rev. John Bartholomew Rieger became the first ordained minister of the First Reformed Church in Lancaster, preaching in the Old Log Church. He had been preceded by John Jacob Hock (Hawk), who was a very pious man though he was not an ordained minister. Several months had elapsed between their pastorates. Rev. Rieger was engaged for a term of two years, but apparently served an additional term. He had been guaranteed a contribution of fifteen pounds per year of this country's currency by the elders, Jost Frenler, Niclaus Treber, and John de Huff. The church was organized about 1727, by the

early French, Swiss, German, and Dutch settlers of the community.

Some difficulties arose between him and his congregations, particularly the one in Lancaster—where there was resentment because of his broadminded, independent, and tolerant ideas toward other religious sects. He is reported to have said that, if faced with the choice, he would take communion from a godly Lutheran preacher rather than from an ungodly Reformed preacher, without feeling “any scruples of conscience about it,”—and, “. . . publicly teaching that man could be saved in any religion.”

A second cause of the trouble being his leanings toward a union of some of the churches, which was bitterly opposed by most of the brethren, and when Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf, in the interest of the Moravian Church, visited Lancaster in 1742, Mr. Rieger entertained him in his home and praised his ideas and doctrines, which favored either union or extinction of some of the churches,—all of which was very distasteful to his own church members and was met with direct disapproval. Quoting from Garber's book, “. . . one of Count Zinzendorf's objectives in coming to America was his ambition to unite all Protestant churches into one fellowship of the spirit of Christ—a vision which even after nearly 2000 years of Christianity has been only meagerly realized. . . .”

After serving churches in and around Lancaster until 1743, for various reasons, Mr. Rieger decided to go to Holland to study medicine. (Whether he had previously taken medical courses is not known). He matriculated at the University of Leyden,* on March 22, 1743. While here, he was commissioned to represent the church and to deliver reports to the Reverend Classis of Amsterdam, Holland. On the 7th of Octo-

*Leyden University, Leyden, Holland, was founded by the Prince of Orange in 1575,—was at one time the most celebrated University in Europe.”

ber, 1743, the Assembly was in session at Amsterdam, and the Reverend Deputies' report contained an excerpt which follows: ". . . The clerk was directed to write to Rev. Rieger . . . who is studying at Leyden, (asking him) if he will be pleased to give a further account to this Assembly about the church there, as it was learned that he had offered to do so. Quod factum."

When he returned from Europe in June, 1745, he found the church in Lancaster being served by Rev. C. L. Schnorr, who was making himself obnoxious by his warnings to the people against Christopher Saur's Bible, proclaiming its errors, etc. Schnorr was soon removed and sent to Germantown, New York. But this did not clear the field, altogether, for Dr. Rieger who, in the meantime, had taken up the practice of medicine as a regular profession. He also desired to continue his church connections and preached occasionally for the Lancaster congregation, and then became the regular pastor of the congregations at Zeltenreich (now, New Holland) and Schafferstown, in Lebanon county, in addition to his practice of medicine. There were those who felt that he should not attempt to fill two "full-time" professions, namely, as practicing physician and as a minister holding regular pastorates. The large number of baptisms in each year of his ministry and the fact that under his leadership the congregation obtained title to the church lot indicated no lack of interest or diligence on his part. However, after a visit on Sept. 23, 1746, by Rev. Michael Schlatter, Missionary Superintendent, to Rev. Rieger and his church, he recorded the following in his Journal: "They were unanimous in desiring a stated preacher. The Rev. Mr. Rieger, himself, judged this best, as he and the church could not agree, although they had no important complaints to make of each other." Shortly after Schlatter's visit, his services were discontinued in the church in Lancaster. He gave up preaching altogether after some trouble arose over his signing a death certificate of a man who had been injured in a fight a few

weeks previously, but who died of a fever. Friends of the dead man took the matter up with the church authorities, and Dr. Rieger was asked to quit preaching though there was no official action taken by the church board in the case. That there was no definite break between him and the church is the fact that he was frequently appointed to install new ministers, and to act in other capacities at stated times.

Dr. Rieger, with ministers Schlatter*—the leader, Boehm, Weiss, and Dorsitus, was one of the organizers of the first Coetus of Pennsylvania which convened in the old church in Philadelphia, September 29, 1747. "Mr. Schlatter speaks of Rieger as a 'regular minister'.—And of these four ministers, Schlatter says: 'These brethern have shown themselves very friendly. They have fully respected my synodical instructions, yielded to them, so far as they are concerned, and have most frankly tendered their exertions to support and assist me, as far as possible, in the discharge of the duties of my commission.'—Dr. Rieger was chosen secretary of the synod in 1748, and its president in 1749. He is referred to in different historical references as the "... celebrated and illustrious Reverend and Doctor John Bartholomew Rieger, the PIONEER MINISTER of the Reformed Church."

His ability as a physician and surgeon was also widely acknowledged, and his later years were devoted almost entirely to the practice of medicine until his death which occurred on March 11, 1769. He was survived by his wife, Eva Catherina, four sons, John, Peter, Abraham and Benjamin, and one daughter, Maria Catherina. The widow died in March, 1796, and at that time all the fore-named children were living, besides a number of grandchildren.

*"The Rev. Michael Schlatter of St. Gall, Switzerland, embarked for America, June 1st, 1746—arrived at Boston July 21, came to Philadelphia Sept. 6th, as a Missionary Superintendent."

Dr. Rieger lies buried near the southwest corner of the First German Reformed Church in Lancaster. A large stone, lying horizontally, marks and covers his grave, on which the inscription is still legible, but according to information furnished by the librarian of the church archives, as of the date 13 October, 1943,—the consistory plan to have the letters re-cut by an expert in the near future. The inscription given correctly as to spelling, capital letters, and arrangement of the lines in German with the English translation follows:

Hier ruhet
 der EHRWURDIGE HERR
 JOHN BARTHOLOMAUS
 RIEGER, Gewesener
 Evangelischer REFORMIRTER
 PREDIGER disser and
 noch Anderer GEMEINDEN
 wie auch Erfahrener
 DOCTOR MEDECINE.
 Er war Geböhren in EUROPA
 zu Oberengelheim
 CHURPFALTZ, den 10 Januar
 1707, und verschied den 11
 Martz 1769, Seines Alters
 62 Jahre 2 Monat
 Hast du zum Arts and Lehrer Jesum
 angenommen so Wirst du auch durch
 ihn sum ewigen Lehen Komen denn
 Kunst und Wissenschaft sind
 Eitelkeit alhier, Dis Sterblicher
 Kan ich in Wahrheit sagen dir

Here rests
 the HONORABLE MISTER
 JOHN BARTHOLOMEW
 RIEGER, Protestant
 REFORMED Minister of this
 CHURCH and
 other diocese
 as well as a Skilled
 DOCTOR of MEDICINE.
 He was born in EUROPE
 at Oberengelheim
 of the Palatinate, on January 10
 1707, and died on the 11 of
 March 1769, his age being
 62 years 2 months
 If you have chosen Jesus Christ
 for your Physician and Teacher then
 you are sure to enter into eternal life
 All is Vanity in Arts and
 Learning, in this Mortal life
 I can say in truth to you.

COPY OF WILL

of

JOHANNES BARTHOLOMEUS RIEGER

In the name of God Amen

I Bartholomew Rieger of the Borough of Lancaster Minister being weak in body but of good senses and memory thanks be to God; but remembering the Mortality of my body do make hereby my Last Will and Testament in manner as followeth

Imprimus I recommend my Soul to my Redeemer and my body to my Family to be interred decently and after my funeral charges and other Just Debts are paid out of my Estate I dispose of the Residue in the following manner viz

I give and bequeath to my beloved Wife Eva Catharina the House and Lot whereon I live at present with all its appurtenances.

Item I give and bequeath to her my beloved Wife another half Lot with the House and all its appurtenances joining to Frederick Yeisar which I have purchased from Ann Marsden To have and to hold said Lots to her my said Wife during the Term of her Natural Life with full power to her to dispose thereof and bequeath the same by a Last Will to any of my children so as she thinks best but she shall not bequeath the same to any person whatsoever besides my Heirs and children.

Item I give and Bequeath to her my beloved Wife the Interest of Five hundred pounds Pennsylvania Currency to enjoy the same during the Term of her Natural Life and to be divided after her Death among all my heirs share alike

Item I give and bequeath to my said beloved Wife all my movable Estate only my Library and all Druggs Tools and Implements in my Doctor Shop Excepted with full power to keep the same during life and to bequeath to each of my Heirs until each of my Respective Children is come to the Twenty fifth year of its Age for which favour my said Wife shall be bound to find each of my children all its Allowance until the Term of Twenty five years; but Nevertheless if my said Wife thinks proper to give each of my Heirs his Legacy sooner, she shall be free to do it And besides these Legacys my wife shall have no Right to the Residue of my Estate

Item I give and bequeath to my son John the sum of Sixty pounds Lawful Money of Pennsylvania to be paid to him within the Term of one year after my death by my Executrix and I hereby for Pregnant Reasons do exclude him my said son John and his heirs from all rights claims and pretentions to all and every my Estate either Real and Personal for ever neither shall he or his Heirs forever inherit any of said Legacies or any Part thereof which I have bequeathed to my Heirs if any of my Heirs should die.

Item I give and bequeath to my son Peter the sum of Two Hundred pounds aforesaid to be paid to him by my Executrix when he is arrived to the twenty fifth year of his Age.

Item I give and bequeath to my son Abraham the sum of two hundred pounds money aforesaid to be paid to him by my Executrix when he is come to the year of twenty five.

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Maria Catherina the sum of two hundred pounds money aforesaid to be paid to her by my Executrix when she is come to the year of twenty five.

Item I give and bequeath to my son Benjamin the sum of two hundred pounds money aforesaid to be paid to him by my Executrix when he is come to the twenty fifth year of his Age but if he should chose to study Medicine I bequeath to him the Farther sum of two hundred pounds more of said money to be paid to him by my Executrix as necessity requires and then I bequeath to him all my Library and all my drugs and Doctor Implements, but if said my son Benjamin should not apply himself to medicine, also that he is not become master thereof within the Term of his Twenty fifth year I order the Last mentioned two hundred pounds together with the Library and all my Drugs and other Doctors Implements to be divided among the above mentioned My heirs and children at any time when my Executrix thinks proper share alike.

Item I ordain that the aforesaid Five hundred pounds whose Interest my wife is to receive during her Life shall after her death be divided under the aforesaid my four Heirs share alike.

Finally I ordain and constitute my beloved Wife Eva Catharina only and Sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have to these Presents set my hand and Seal this Eight Day of March Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and sixty eight.

Johannes Bartholomeus Rieger (L. S.)

Signed Sealed and Acknowledged by the Testator to be his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us underwritten Witnesses who saw him Sign and Seal the Same.

Peter Hohler

Peter Reitzel

March 20, 1769 Letters Testamentary granted to Eva Catherine Rieger

REFERENCES and AUTHORITIES

Family—

- 1). Family Records.
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